

Application No. 10/717,098 2 of 10
After Final Reply dated 28 February 2007
Responsive to Final Office Action mailed on 4 January 2007

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following complete set of claims replaces the previous set of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article for being worn about a lower torso of a wearer, the disposable absorbent article having a lateral axis, a longitudinal axis, longitudinally opposed end edges and laterally opposed longitudinal edges defining a periphery of the disposable absorbent article, and comprising:
 - a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - a backsheet;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet and having longitudinally opposed end edges and laterally opposed longitudinal edges disposed on opposing sides of the longitudinal axis, the end edges and longitudinal edges of the absorbent core being disposed proximally of the corresponding end edges and longitudinal edges of the disposable absorbent article; and
 - a fecal material storage element disposed intermediate the topsheet and the absorbent core and having laterally opposing longitudinal side edges disposed on opposing sides of the longitudinal axis, the fecal material storage element extending contiguously between the longitudinal side edges, the fecal material storage element having two major faces, a first major face oriented toward the topsheet and a second major face oriented toward the absorbent core, longitudinally opposed end edges, ~~and laterally opposed longitudinal edges disposed on opposing sides of the longitudinal axis,~~ at least a portion of one of the edges of the fecal material storage element being disposed distally of a portion of the corresponding one of the edges of the absorbent core, wherein the disposable absorbent article has a trans-topsheet capacity greater than about 0.20 grams per square inch.
2. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the topsheet is treated to be hydrophilic.

Application No. 10/717,098 3 of 10
After Final Reply dated 28 February 2007
Responsive to Final Office Action mailed on 4 January 2007

3. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the topsheet is selected from the following group: apertured plastic films and woven or nonwoven webs of synthetic fibers or a combination of natural and synthetic fibers.
4. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the topsheet is bonded to the fecal material storage element at discrete sites to permit the topsheet to separate from the fecal material storage element between about 0.5 and about 7.6 cm.
5. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the fecal material storage element comprises a cellulosic fibrous structure.
6. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the topsheet comprises apertures having an effective aperture size of at least 0.3 square mm.
7. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the fecal material storage element maintains a 3-dimensional configuration under load.
8. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the disposable absorbent article has a trans-topsheet capacity of at least about 0.40 grams per square inch.
9. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the disposable absorbent article has a trans-topsheet capacity of at least about 0.60 grams per square inch.
10. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein at least about 4 square inches of the disposable absorbent article has the trans-topsheet capacity.
11. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein at least about 20 square inches of the disposable absorbent article has the trans-topsheet capacity.
12. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the topsheet and the fecal material storage element are joined at discrete sites spaced at least about 0.5 inches apart.

Application No. 10/717,098 4 of 10
After Final Reply dated 28 February 2007
Responsive to Final Office Action mailed on 4 January 2007

13. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the fecal material storage element comprises blind holes having a depth of at least about 0.75 millimeters while the fecal material storage element is under a load of 31.6 grams per square centimeter.
14. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the fecal material storage elements extends to the periphery of the disposable absorbent article at at least one point on one of the edges of the disposable absorbent article.
15. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article for being worn about a lower torso of a wearer, the disposable absorbent article having a lateral axis, a longitudinal axis, longitudinally opposed end edges and laterally opposed longitudinal edges defining a periphery of the disposable absorbent article, and comprising:
- a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - a backsheet;
 - an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet and having longitudinally opposed end edges and laterally opposed longitudinal edges disposed on opposing sides of the longitudinal axis, the end edges and longitudinal edges of the absorbent core being disposed proximally of the corresponding end edges and longitudinal edges of the disposable absorbent article; and
 - a fecal material storage element disposed intermediate the topsheet and the absorbent core and having laterally opposing longitudinal side edges disposed on opposing sides of the longitudinal axis, the fecal material storage element extending contiguously between the longitudinal side edges, the fecal material storage element having two major faces, a first major face oriented toward the topsheet and a second major face oriented toward the absorbent core, longitudinally opposed end edges, ~~and laterally opposed longitudinal edges disposed on opposing sides of the longitudinal axis~~, at least a portion of one of the edges of the fecal material storage element being disposed distally of a portion of the corresponding one of the edges of the absorbent core, wherein less than fifty percent of the surface area of the first major surface of the fecal material storage element is bonded to the topsheet and at least fifty percent of the

Application No. 10/717,098 5 of 10
After Final Reply dated 28 February 2007
Responsive to Final Office Action mailed on 4 January 2007

surface area of the second major surface of the fecal material storage element is bonded to the absorbent core,
the disposable absorbent article has a trans-topsheet capacity greater than about 0.30 grams per square inch, and
the backsheet is at least partially peripherally joined to one of the topsheet and the fecal material storage element.

16. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 15 wherein at least 15 square inches of the disposable absorbent article has the trans-topsheet capacity.

17. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article for being worn about a lower torso of a wearer, the disposable absorbent article having a lateral axis, a longitudinal axis, longitudinally opposed end edges and laterally opposed longitudinal edges defining a periphery of the disposable absorbent article, and comprising:

a liquid pervious topsheet including apertures having an effective aperture size of at least 0.3 square mm;

a backsheet at least partially peripherally joined to the topsheet;

an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the backsheet and having longitudinally opposed end edges and laterally opposed longitudinal edges disposed on opposing sides of the longitudinal axis, the end edges and longitudinal edges of the absorbent core being disposed proximally of the corresponding end edges and longitudinal edges of the disposable absorbent article; and

a fecal material storage element disposed intermediate the topsheet and the absorbent core and having laterally opposing longitudinal side edges disposed on opposing sides of the longitudinal axis, the fecal material storage element extending contiguously between the longitudinal side edges, the fecal material storage element having two major faces, a first major face oriented toward the topsheet and a second major face oriented toward the absorbent core, longitudinally opposed end edges, ~~and laterally opposed longitudinal edges disposed on opposing sides of the longitudinal axis,~~ at least a portion of one of the edges of the fecal material storage element being disposed distally of a portion of the corresponding one of the edges of the absorbent core,

Application No. 10/717,098 6 of 10
After Final Reply dated 28 February 2007
Responsive to Final Office Action mailed on 4 January 2007

wherein the disposable absorbent article has a trans-topsheet capacity greater than about 0.20 grams per square inch and
the topsheet is bonded to the fecal material storage element at discrete sites to permit the topsheet to separate from the fecal material storage element between about 0.5 and about 7.6 cm.

18. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 17 wherein at least a portion of the topsheet is treated to be hydrophilic.
19. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 17 wherein the topsheet is selected from the following group: apertured plastic films and woven or nonwoven webs of synthetic fibers or a combination of natural and synthetic fibers.
20. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 17 wherein the fecal material storage elements extends to the periphery of the disposable absorbent article at at least one point on one of the edges of the disposable absorbent article.